



Agenda

**WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMISSION
Monthly Meeting**

September 03, 2015, 9:00 AM
District Headquarters - B-1 Auditorium
3301 Gun Club Road
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AGENDA

FINAL

1. Call to Order - James J. Moran, Chairman

2. WRAC Member Issues

Summary

This agenda item allots WRAC members time to share pertinent information with other members and the public. Comments should be kept brief. If extended time is needed, please consider requesting the topic be added as an agenda item at the next meeting.

**3. Waters of the United States - Susan Roeder Martin, Senior Practice Expert
Attorney, Office of Counsel, SFWMD**

Summary

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) promulgated a rule to define Waters of the United States (WOTUS). This presentation discusses the new rule, which became effective on August 28, 2015, and the response of stakeholders to this rule.

**4. Integrated Delivery Schedule Update - Tom Teets, Director, Everglades Policy and
Coordination Division, SFWMD**

Summary

The Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS) is the basis for agency guidance to decision-makers for scheduling and budgeting South Florida Ecosystem Restoration (SFER) Program projects. The 2015 revision to the IDS is a public process and has been focused on developing a realistic schedule and sequencing plan for achieving restoration benefits as soon as possible consistent with state and federal authorizations and funding. This presentation will provide an update on the current IDS process.

5. **Final Draft Central Florida Water Initiative Plan and Regional Water Supply Plan - Len Lindahl, Assistant Executive Director, SFWMD**

Summary

The Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI) Draft Regional Water Supply Plan (RWSP) was jointly developed by the St. Johns River, South Florida, and Southwest Florida water management districts in coordination with stakeholders. The CFWI planning area includes southern Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole and Polk counties. The Draft RWSP was released for public review in late November. The RWSP purpose is to identify programs and projects to ensure that adequate and sustainable water supplies are available to meet future water supply needs while protecting the environment and water resources. This presentation provides an update on activities associated with CFWI/RWSP.

6. **Florida Bay Current Conditions: Another Perfect Storm? - Fred Sklar, Everglades Systems Assessment Section Administrator, Applied Sciences Bureau, Water Resources Division, SFWMD**

Summary

Scientists and recreational users on Florida Bay have reported the beginning of signs of a perfect storm, similar to the massive seagrass die-off that took everyone by surprise in 1987. It has been realized since the 1987 die-off that seagrass die-off occurs in shallow basins with high seagrass biomass, high water temperatures, high salinity and low flows. The preliminary data that is currently coming in from FIU, FAU, USGS, ENP, FWI, NOAA and the SFWMD indicates that environmental conditions may have triggered ecological changes in Florida Bay that can cascade toward seagrass mortality and algal blooms. Over the past two decades, the seagrass has been recovering and building biomass levels similar to what was in Florida Bay in 1986, before the die-off. Over the past month, scientists have found that seagrass is again dying in some shallow basins. There is scientific consensus that the potential for this getting worse is very real. But, it also appears that only a shift in rain and wind patterns can remedy the current situation. The biogeochemistry of this perfect storm is not fully understood. Currently, there is a multi-agency strategy being developed to pool resources and prioritize monitoring to validate the cascading chain hypothesis.

7. **Staff Reports**

Summary

This agenda item allows SFWMD staff to provide brief verbal reports regarding the status of key agency projects and initiatives.

8. **General Public Comment**

9. **Adjourn**